Tamil Arasu

In scope this month

Governor's address

His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu addressed the joint sitting of the Tamil Nadu Assembly and Council on 8-1-86. A review of past performances and an idea of the TamilNadu that is to be was the highlight of his address.

The address

Explosive unit Launched

The explosion of an industrial revolution was heralded by the launching of the Tamil Nadu Explosives unit by TIDCO at Ranipet on 9-2-86. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. M.G.R. inaugurated the unit that was well attended by the public.

A Report

Pope John Paul II in Madras

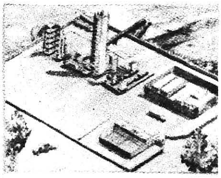
The head of the Vatican Government and the leader of millions of Roman Catholics around the world was given a rousing reception at Madras on 5-2-86. The Pope attended an inter religious meeting at Rajaji Hall along with a host of other engagements.

A Report

Cultural centre at Thiruvaiyaru

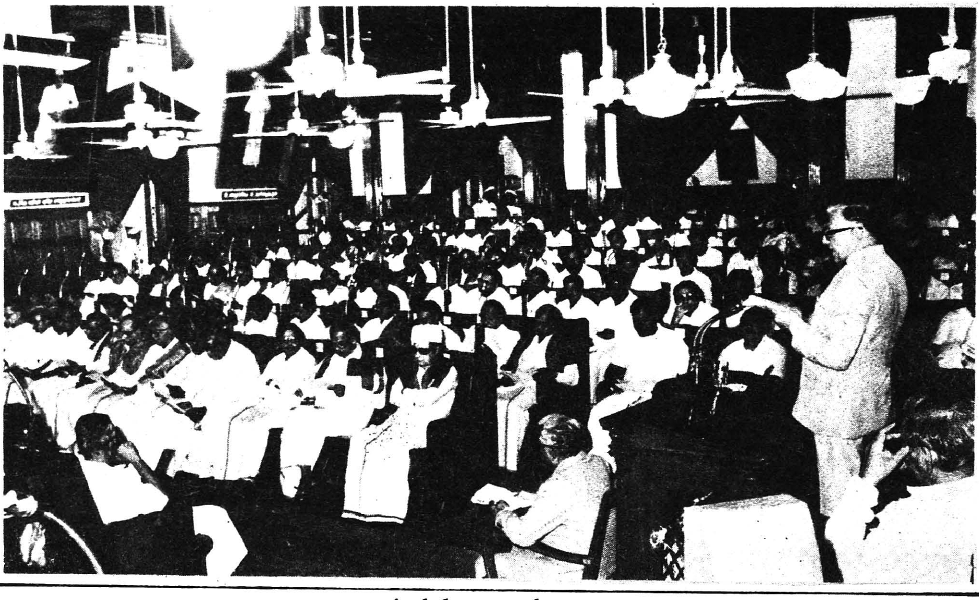
TamilNadu, the cradle of the Dravidian civilization added another milestone to its history by the addition of the Southern India Cultural centre at Thiruvaiyaru. The Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the centre on 31-1-86.

A Report



Thiruvalluvar Year 2016

February 1986 **Thai-Maasi**



Address by
Thiru SUNDAR LAL KHURANA
Governor of Tamil Nadu
To The Joint Session of the Tamil Nadu Legislature on 8th January 1986

May I at the outset wish you all a very happy New Year and Pongal. I hope that this year will bring further prosperity to the State and people of Tamil Nadu.

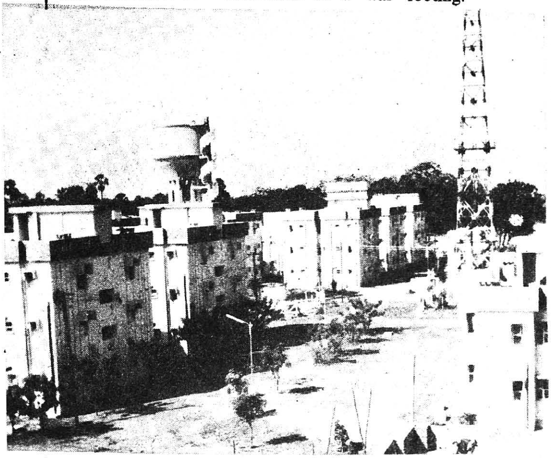
Last year witnessed momentous events in both the economic and political scene in the country. With the launching of the Seventh Five-Year Plan, the announcement of the long-term fiscal policy, liberalisation for industrial development and development oriented taxation structure, the country is poised for faster economic growth. The State Government proposes to take advantage of this favourable investment climate to accelerate the industrial growth through channelisation of adequate inputs by way of infrastructural development and a conducive policy framework. The major thrust this year also will be on the strengthening of Power sector which is the sine qua non for industrial development. In the Seventh Plan allocations, the State has already earmarked more than 30 per cent of the outlay on Power development. I shall be mentioning, in the course of my address, the areas of emphasis that have been selected by the State for providing necessary impetus for a balanced growth in various sectors.

Tamil Nadu has always enjoyed the reputation of implementing the Plan programmes sincerely and effectively and has been achieving all the Plan targets. As against an outlay of Rs. 3,150 crores for the Sixth Plan, we had spent Rs. 3,675 crores by the end of 1984–85 and for the Seventh Plan, we have adopted an increased outlay of Rs. 5,750 crores. As against an approved outlay of Rs. 960 crores for the first year of the Plan, we anticipate that expenditure will be around Rs. 1,050 crores. I am happy to inform you that for the year 1984-85, the performance of Tamil Nadu along with Maharashtra was adjudged best among all the States in respect of poverty eradication schemes encompassed in the 20-Point Programme. Tamil Nadu will also be receiving the national award of Rs. 2.5 crores for its performance in the Family Welfare Programme for 1984–85.

The development thrust in the activities of the Government is subject to periodical strains on account of natural calamities to which the State is prone. There is hardly a year when we do not suffer from the visitations of serious drought or devastating flood. Last year also was no exception and the month of November 1985 witnessed unprecedented heavy rains in Madras City and Thanjavur, South Arcot, Chengalpattu and

Tamil Nadu leads in Poverty Eradication Schemes in India.

North Arcot districts. The heavy damage caused by the flood which inundated the low lying areas and the tragic death of so many persons in the flood are still fresh in our memory. Relief and rehabilitation measures were undertaken on a war footing.



We are grateful to the Prime Minister for personally visiting the flood affected areas and for promptly despatching a team of officials to assess the damage and recommend relief assistance. Pending the receipt of assistance from Government of India, the State Government had already sanctioned a sum of Rs. 26.26 crores to attend to the immediate works of relief and restoration. Government of India have recently passed orders fixing a ceiling of Rs. 66.81 crores as relief and rehabilitation assistance. Orders on this basis are being issued.

. The State Government are greatly concerned about the continued ethnic violence in Sri Lanka and condemn the violent attack on Sri Lankan Tamils by the Sri Lankan army, in contravention of the cease-fire agreement and without revival of the negotiations with the liberation fighters and the Tamil United Liberation Front. The State Government urge the Government of India to take all possible steps to find an early solution to this problem. In the course of my address last year, I had touched upon the problem of Sri Lanka refugees. On their part, the Government have been taking all possible steps to take care of the vast influx of refugees coming to India from July 1983 onwards. Approximately 1.25 lakh persons have arrived from Sri Lanka and of these about 30,000 destitutes have been admitted to various camps in the State. The total expenditure on the relief and rehabilitation measures so far will be about Rs. 45 crores. In this connection, Government of Tamil Nadu welcome the recent statement of the Prime Minister that India would not be able to take back Sri Lankan people who are qualified for Indian citizenship until the situation stabilises in Sri Lanka enabling the refugees to return to their homeland in safety and with dignity.

Before outlining the thrust areas for the concentrated attention of the Government during the current year, I would briefly touch upon the activities and achievements in some important sectors.

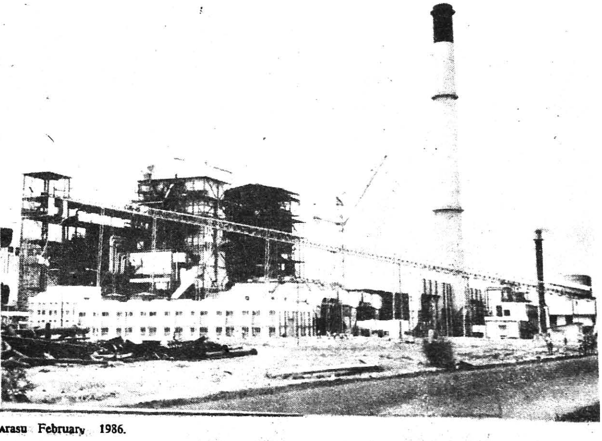
The Government is fully cognisant of the importance of electricity as a basic infrastructural requirement for all development. In keeping with this awareness, an outlay of Rs. 2,000 crores out of the total Plan outlay of Rs. 5,750 crores for the Seventh Plan period has been envisaged for the power development alone.

One of the significant achievements of the Electricity Board in the previous year has been the improvement in the plant load factor of thermal stations. The plant load factor of Ennore Thermal Station has risen to 50.7 per cent in the first eight months of 1985-86 as against an average of 35 per cent in the past. Substantial increase in the plant load factor is being effected in Tuticorin Thermal Power Station also where it rose to 62 per cent in 1984-85 as against 50.5 per cent in 1983-84.

However, with the increased pace of development, the demand for electricity has also been increasing rapidly. For example, though the availability in the year 1984-85 was increased to 13,731 million units from 10,377 million units in 1983-84, the power shortage could not be completely wiped out. Keeping in view the increased demand for power, additional installed capacity of 1,416 MW is planned to be commissioned during the Seventh Five-Year Plan.

Succour to 1.25 Refugees from Sri Lanka.

The Government have been taking all possible steps to popularise education and make it more responsive to the needs of the people. During



1985-86, as many as 85 new high schools, and 49 new higher secondary schools have been opened. During my last address, I had mentioned that the Government would take up a programme for constructing new school buildings in a phased manner. Accordingly, in 1985-86, a provision of Rs. 1·50 crores has been made for taking up this work. The State Government has attached great importance to vocationalisation of education. It is worth noting that in 1983-84 itself, Tamil Nadu had more than half of the 1,600 vocational institutions which were in existence all over the country. Out of 3·32 lakh Higher Secondary students in Tamil Nadu in 1984-85, 61,502 were studying in vocational courses. Vocational courses have been introduced in 969 out of 1,541 Higher Secondary schools. We do hope that this high degree of vocationalisation will make the education more relevant to the needs of the people.

30 Percent of Seventh Plan Outlay for Power Development

The State Government have all along been assigning the highest priority to rural development. This is reflected in the zeal and effectiveness with which rural development and poverty eradication schemes are being implemented in Tamil Nadu. Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, an expenditure of Rs. 146·61 crores was incurred during the Sixth Five-Year Plan period which benefited nearly 14 lakh people. In 1985-86, it has been targeted to assist 2·73 lakh families under this Scheme. Under the National Rural Employment Programme, it has been targeted to generate 287 lakh mandays in the year 1985-86 with an allocation of Rs. 41 crores. Similarly, under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, it has been targeted to provide 299 lakh mandays in the year 1985–86. At the same time, the expenditure under this programme will go towards creation of durable community assets.

Government have been taking effective measures to increase the food production. At the end of the Sixth Plan period, we had reached production level of 69·17 lakhs MT of rice and other cereals, 3·42 lakhs MT of pulses and 13·425 lakhs MT of oil seeds. For the Seventh Plan, the targeted production level is 105 lakhs MT of foodgrains, 6 lakhs MT of pulses, and 18·98 lakhs MT of oil seeds. Various schemes have been formulated to impart new technologies to achieve this target.

The failure of South-West monsoon in Tamil Nadu resulted in poor flow of water in Mettur Reservoir. However, arrangements had been made for the irrigation of crops by turn system in Thanjavur district. But, the North-East monsoon accompanied by severe cyclone created havoc, and caused extensive damages, particularly in Thanjavur, South Arcot and Chengalpattu districts. The heavy rain in Thanjavur district was counter-productive as the excessive rain water not only flowed into the sea, but also affected adversely the standing samba crops. Inspite of these severe handicaps, the State Government had tried to compensate the loss in acreage by promoting intensive cultivation of paddy in all other areas and consequently high productivity level was achieved in different parts of the State during kuruvai and the

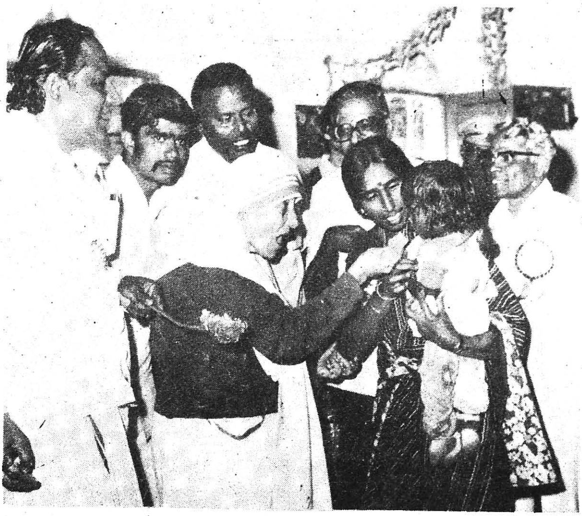
Government hopes to achieve a production level of around 50 lakh Metric Tonnes.

Recently, based on the representation of State Government, Karnataka agreed to release 5 T.M.C. of water in exchange of power. However, it has now become clear that a permanent and mutually acceptable solution to Cauvery water dispute is urgently required. The Chief Minister has already initiated negotiations for resolving this issue to the mutual satisfaction of both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. This is being vigorously pursued by the State Government and we hope that an amicable settlement will be reached based on the principles already incorporated in the 1924 agreement.

The Government is fully aware that in the context of limited and uncertain supply of water, Tamil Nadu will have to design its strategy towards better water management and adoption of dry land farming techniques. Government have accordingly organised, on a large scale, special demonstration known as "3 P" to popularise better water management. Another area of thrust will be the popularisation of appropriate technologies for the dry land farmers through weather proofing.

Due to the inclement seasonal conditions, the food production this year was adversely affected. This has resulted in an increased offtake of rice from the public distribution system. On an average, the offtake has been of the order of 94,000 tonnes per month this year against the average of 55,000 tonnes per month in the past four years. The Government have been taking all possible measures to meet the increased demand of rice under public distribution system. The production incentive for the paddy brought to the Direct Purchase Centres in Cauvery Delta area had been increased from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per quintal this year. Moreover, from 1st November 1985, Government have taken up monopoly procurement in Cauvery Delta area and increased the production incentive to Rs. 35 per quintal. During the kuruvai season, 2.9 lakhs tonnes of rice was procured. In order to have enough stock under the public distribution system, it has been decided to extend the monopoly procurement even for samba crop initially upto 31st January 1986.

The State Government have been repeatedly urging the Central Government to allocate more rice to Tamil Nadu from the Central pool. The Central Government had increased the allocation for September 1985 to 35,000 tonnes from 25,000 tonnes and further enhanced the allocation to 40,000 tonnes from October 1985. In addition to this, the Central Government have agreed for an additional allocation of 50,000 tonnes for November 1985 and December 1985. The State Government welcome this gesture of goodwill on the part of the Central Government. We hope that in future the Central Government will increase this allocation to one lakh tonnes. The State Government will make all possible efforts to ensure adequate supply of foodgrains through Public Distribution System.



50 Percent of the Vocational Training Institutions in India, at Tamil Nadu.

During the Seventh Five-Year Plan, it is proposed to cover approximately 10,000 habitations with safe drinking water-supply. The Government is continuing its efforts for augmenting the drinking water-supply in rural areas. Under the Minimum Needs Programme itself, a provision of Rs. 24 crores has been made for the year 1985-86.

With a view to augmenting water-supply in Madras City, hydrogeological studies in Araniar and Kortaliar basin have been completed with UNDP assistance. The Government have sanctioned a scheme, in the first phase, for extraction and supply to Madras city of 55 mld. of ground water. Total estimated cost is Rs. 98 crores. It is proposed to pose this scheme to the World Bank for assistance.

This Government have justifiably earned the reputation of a welfare oriented Government. Number of pioneering schemes have been started by this Government which have served as a model at the national level and have been well acclaimed at international level also. In the course of my address last year, I had mentioned that a comprehensive programme for child welfare would be implemented. I am happy to inform that this has been given effect to and the Government is now taking care of all the basic needs of the children starting from nutritional support and health back up to free provision of clothes and text books. At present 86·88 lakh children are being benefited under the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme and 58·10 lakh children will be benefited from the free supply of uniforms. I may also point out that the programme for the supply of uniforms will give employment opportunities

to 40,000 women in various tailoring units. With a comprehensive scheme like this, Tamil Nadu can definitely look forward to a bright and healthy future generation which will build a strong Tamil Nadu of tomorrow.

10,000 Habitations to Receive Drinking Water Supply

Realising the importance of mass media in motivating the acceptor to readily accept a planned family norm, the communication strategy has been reoriented and audience specific messages for the agriculturists, salaried class of employees and women have been developed. Professional experts are proposed to be involved in developing further a varied strategy to suit the needs of different groups of acceptors. Efforts to involve industrialists and philanthropic houses in donating modern gadgets of communication like T.V., V.C.P., etc., to

hospitals and institutions, to add to the comfort and recreational facilities of the acceptors, have produced gratifying results and it is proposed to intensify further the efforts in this area.

By way of improving the services it is proposed to provide adequately equipped operation theatres in the Primary Health Centres and Taluk Hospitals in a phased manner so that such services are made available to every acceptor in the rural areas within a distance of 8 to 10 kilometres from his door step.

Mass immunisation programme to cover all the children in the vulnerable age group, in an effort to reduce infant mortality, has been undertaken in three districts on the pattern of the Universal Immunisation Programme launched by the Government of India on 19th November 1985 and a coverage of over 95 per cent has been achieved even in the third phase of the programme. These efforts would further improve our performance in the Family Welfare Programme in the coming years.

As indicated in my address last year, the Government have been taking steps for integrated and comprehensive development of adi-dravidar community. During 1985-86, the Special Component Plan for the economic upliftment of adi-dravidars involves an outlay of Rs. 126·16 crores. In order to give further fillip to the socio-economic development of adi-dravidars, the Government will give special

86.88 Lakh Children Benefit by the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme.

emphasis to increase educational facilities for them. A special scheme would be drawn up for upgradation of existing schools.

In the course of my address last year, I had mentioned that the family benefit fund payment to Government servants will be raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000. This has already been implemented. The Government have also passed orders on the recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission expeditiously. Even though the commitment on account of these orders was as high as Rs. 90 crores per annum, the Government have not hesitated in giving retrospective effect to these recommendations from 1st October, 1984. This will clearly bear out the fact that the Government is keenly sensitive to the welfare of employees. Even now, when some representations were received, the Government decided to appoint a One Man Committee. Government will also quickly pass orders after receiving and considering the report of the One Man Committee.

Operation Theatres in Primary Health Centres

The effort of the Government is to judiciously mix the thrust for key welfare measures with emphasis on some new areas for economic development. As mentioned by me last year, the Government have launched a large scale programme to tap the non-conventional sources of energy. The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 95 lakhs to Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency for promoting solar hot water system, solar hot air system, etc., in

95 Percent of Children Immunised

industries and public institutions. The Government have also taken up the implementation of Wind Energy Project at a total cost of Rs. 1 crore.

It has been the endeavour of the State Government to place Tamil Nadu in the forefront of the industrial map of the country. With a view to achieve this, all possible steps have been taken to encourage entrepreneurs to set up industries in the State. Sanction of letters of intent and their conversion to industrial licenses are being monitored closely. During the year 1985, 38 letters of intent have been issued.

The Mayiladuthurai Co-operative Sugar Mill which is being set up at a cost of Rs. 1,177 lakhs is expected to commence production in December 1986.

The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation continues to play a vital role in the promotion of major industries. It has taken up a number of projects which are in various stages of implementation. Among the public sector projects taken up by the Corporation, the Tamil Nadu Explosives Ltd. has commenced trial production in the year 1985.

In addition to its usual promotional activities, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation has taken up a Special Industrial Development Programme under Madras Urban Development Project-II funded by the World Bank. The scheme envisages provision of infrastructural facilities, construction of factory buildings and purchase and erection of machineries to set up 145 industrial units at Mogappair which are being financed by TIIC and the scheme is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

The Government of India has set up an Export Processing Zone at Madras to promote exports from the region. The State Government have provided about 158 acres of lands for the first stage of the project and it is proposed to acquire about 300 acres of land for the second stage to set up 250 more units besides 120 units under the first stage. So far, the Government of India have cleared 74 applications for this project.

The State Government have been pleading with the Central Government for rectifying the imbalance in the matter of central investment resulting in lesser investment in Tamil Nadu as compared to other States. Madras Refineries Limited, at Manali has recently doubled its existing capacity from 2.8 million tonnes to 5.6 million tonnes per annum. The State Government is also pressing the Government of India to set up the Cine Colour Plant at a cost of Rs. 200 crores and the X-Ray Film Plant at a cost of Rs. 170 crores in Uthagamandalam.

From the foregoing, it will be evident that a strong foundation exists in the State both by way of manpower and infrastructure for launching a concerted effort for accelerated economic growth. As already mentioned by me, Government of India is planning to create a favourable investment climate and we propose to take full advantage of this to reap maximum benefits for the State. Economic growth has also to be balanced with distributional justice in providing avenues for the percolation of these benefits to the common man. One of the major problems in the State is large scale unemployment and the industrial policy of the State has to consider a balanced development not only in high technology sectors or in large scale and medium industries but also in the traditionally high employment oriented areas like handlooms, cottage and village industries and small scale sector, both organised and unorganised. Over the years, the service sector has also increased its contribution to the State Domestic Product and this sector would also require support and strengthening. With these objectives in view, the following measures are proposed to be introduced from the current year:—

Tamil Nadu Leaps to Encourage Industrial Growth.

The major incentives provided by the State, in addition to infrastructural support, to large and medium industries have been capital subsidies and interest free sales tax loans. It is proposed to streamline these incentive packages in such a way as to direct their focus to backward areas and also to specific categories of industries which need to be attracted to the State.

The Power Sector has already been provided high priority in our Plan programmes and the endeavour of the State would be to overcome the deficit in power by the end of the Seventh Plan. The Government are also considering power generation to be taken up through independent corporations in collaboration with private sector, with external aid or commercial credit so that the process of augmenting generation capacity can be speeded up.

We have already informed the Government of India that the textile policy which has been announced does not provide adequate support to the handloom sector. It is essential not only to modernise the sector but also to provide suitable incentives and financial inputs in order to increase their marketing competence so that increased output can be sustained and the large employment provided by such output is not jeopardised. We hope that based on our stand in the matter the Prime Minister will make necessary changes to properly safeguard the interest of the handloom sector.

(4) Unlike the Central Government the States lack the advantage of directly tapping resources

like external assistance or domestic borrowings. In this context the observation of the Prime Minister that resources can be augmented by increasing the productivity of Public Sector Undertakings is highly relevant to the State Governments. Our endeavour will be to focus our attention on increasing the productivity in this field so that instead of being a drag on the State exchequer the Public Sector becomes a net contributor. The State Government have already introduced a system of subjecting the various sectors in the Government to a strict discipline of fulfilling prescribed targets and closely monitoring their performance.

Tamil Nadu has witnessed phenomenal growth in the area of small-scale sector and we are also the pioneers in introducing co-operatives in select industrial activities. The State has already conducted resource profile studies for the various districts. It is necessary to dovetail these with the demand needs so that ultimately we achieve a portfolio of industrial production which would cater fully or atleast to the maximum extent possible, to the local needs. The common man should be able to obtain his normal consumption requirements from industrial production within the State. The gaps that are identified on this basis will have to be filled in by encouraging industrial production in those areas. It is proposed to set up a nodal agency in the Directorate of Industries and Commerce for this purpose which will work out the requirements by way of inputs, incentives and other support for fostering such industries in identified areas, be they in the small-scale, cottage or village sectors. This requires a co-ordinated effort by the various wings of the Government which are,today, catering to these different areas and it is proposed that this nodal agency under the Director of Industries and Commerce should fulfil this need.

Last year, I had mentioned the intention of the Government to augment assistance to the vulnerable sections of the population like Adi-

Houses to Thirty Lakh People in Three Years

dravidars through time bound programmes. This is intended as a supplement to the large number of national schemes implemented in the State. Shelter is one of the prime requisites for decent living and the Government firmly believe that the poor and vulnerable sections of the population should be provided with this basic facility. **I am happy to announce that the Government intend to implement a massive programme for providing houses to the homeless from next financial year. Five lakh houses will be provided to the Adi-dravidars, Scheduled Tribes and Nari Kuravars who are today languishing without proper and adequate shelter. Similarly, five lakh houses will also be provided to other families living below the poverty line. This Programme is intended to fulfil the laudable objective of meeting the housing needs of these sections of the population by providing houses to thirty lakh people in a three year period.**

The elections to Panchayats and Panchayat Unions are to be held on the dates which have been recently announced by the Government. The Government are also firmly of the view that elections to the Co-operative Societies shall be conducted soon.

Education has been a priority area for this Government and as mentioned by me last year, Government have started increasing the allocation for improvement of the school buildings and strengthening the laboratories. Special allocations will be made to the adi-dravidar schools in this regard.

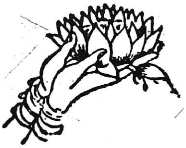
Bifurcation of Tirunelveli & North Arcot Districts Proposed

As announced in my speech last year, the Government have bifurcated Madurai district into Madurai and Anna districts. This process of creating viable and manageable administrative district units is proposed to be continued in the current year and in the next phase Tirunelveli and North Arcot districts are proposed to be bifurcated.

In the last budget, Government had made a beginning in simplification of the sales tax structure by converting multi-point sales tax to single point tax on a few commodities. It is proposed to continue this exercise so that the sales tax structure in the State will be growth oriented.

The Government are making all possible efforts to usher in an era of growth and development. Your co-operation to this noble endeavour will pave the way for a bright future for Tamil Nadu.

Vanakkam.



TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL EXPLOSIVES PROJECT LAUNCHED

The Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Dr. M.G.Ramachandran, on February 9th inaugurated the commercial production in the Rs. 23 crore industrial explosives project of the Tamil Nadu Industrial Explosives Ltd., located on a 700-acre site at Vandaranthangal village, eight km north of Katpadi in North Arcot district.

The industrial explosives unit will have the capacity to manufacture 50 tonnes of nitro-glycerine-based explosives. The mixing operation in the manufacture and the cartridging of the product will be carried out by remote control. The unit will be the third in the country. (The others are in Bihar and Orissa). The unit will have technical collaboration with two explosives manufacturing concerns in Sweden and Norway.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation for the Rs. 22-crore detonator project and a Rs. 23-crore ammonium nitrate and nitric acid project. He also laid the foundation for a colony of 72 houses for the employees of the company to be built at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs.

Tmt. E.V.K. Sulochana Sampath, Chairperson, TIDCO, which is promoting the company, said in her presidential address that TIDCO had so far sponsored 45 projects both in the public and joint sectors with a total capital outlay of Rs. 612 crores. Out of this TIDCO's contribution was Rs. 70 crores. The modern, integrated explosives complex which was inaugurated was a testimony to TIDCO's expertise in handling the implementation of large projects, she said. The three projects

put together would involve a total outlay of Rs. 70 crores with employment potential for 2000 persons.

Tmt. Sampath said the commencement of commercial production in the explosives unit would give a boost to overall development in Tamil Nadu and adjoining States. TIDCO had already drawn up plans for setting up major industries in the fields of power, petro-chemicals and precision engineering and electronics with an outlay of about Rs. 600 crores.

Thiru K. Rajaram, Hon'ble Industries Minister and Thiru P.U. Shanmugham, Hon'ble Local Administration Minister, said the inauguration of the exclusive unit was testimony to the Government's keeness in promoting industries.

Thiru RM. Veerappan, Hon'ble Information Minister released a souvenir which was received by Thiru T.V. Antony I.A.S., Chief Secretary. Thiru Anoor Jagadeesan, Hon'ble Rural Industries Minister, welcomed the gathering. Thiru C.N. Chandrasekaran, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Industrial Explosives Ltd., proposed a vote of thanks.

LIVING EACH DAY

Every day is a life time in miniature.

What we cannot do for a lifetime we can do for a daytime.

"Anyone," wrote R.L. Stevenson, "can live sweetly, patiently, lovingly, purely, till the sun goes down."

Anyone can hold his temper for a day and guard the words he speaks.

Anyone can carry his burden heroically for one day.

Anyone can rise above fear for a day and meet each situation with courage.

Anyone can be kind and thoughtful and considerate for a day.

Anyone can endeavour to learn something new each day and mark some growth.

Sir William Osler pointed out that just as ships are kept afloat by airtight compartments, living in daytight compartments will help us avoid wrecking our lives. Osler gives us a magic word with which to face the day : *Equanimity.*

Live a day at a time and remember that tomorrow is another today.

Pope visits Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu rolled out red carpet and gave a reverential welcome to the Pope as he flew into the City from Calcutta by an IAF Aircraft on 5th. Feb.

Amidst thunderous ovation by a vast multitude at the Meenambakkam airport bedecked with Papal flags and festoons, His Excellency, the Governor, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, and the Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, Rt. Rev. Dr. R. Arulappa, received the Pope and garlanded him.

The Pontiff was all smiles as he saw the girls of the Sacred Heart School receiving him through a formation of "Welcome".

Among those who greeted the Pontiff at the airport were the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council, Thiru M. P. Sivagnanam, Speaker of the Assembly, Thiru P. H. Pandian, Judges, Ministers, officials, Consular Corps, MPs, MLAs and MLCs.

The aircraft flying the Vatican and Indian tricolour touched down at 11.25 a.m., 25 minutes behind schedule.

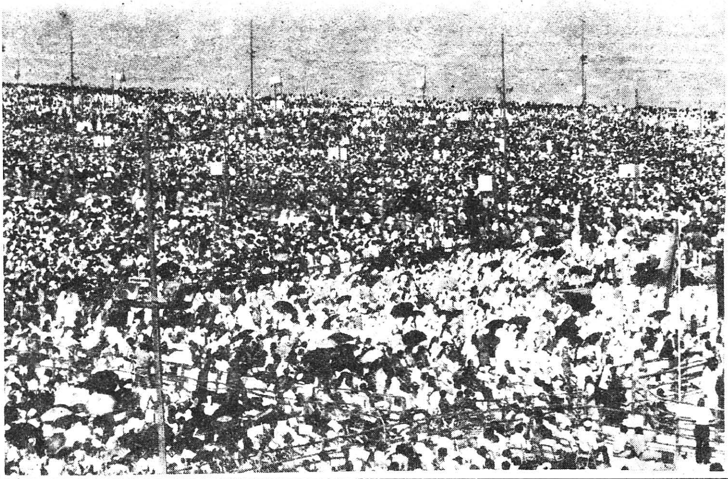
Pope John Paul II offered prayers in the shrine of St. Thomas atop St. Thomas Mount, Madras. His visit to the Shrine, in the Church of Expectation of Blessed Virgin, marks the spiritual high-light of his visit to the city, for it was here that St. Thomas, one of the 12 disciples of Jesus Christ, attained martyrdom.

Not only did the Pontiff offered prayers there but also directly addressed from the nearby Calvary the vast gathering assembled all over the hill. And the crowd went delirious, with joy as the Pope slowly intoned in Tamil, "Vanakkam; May God bless you" (Iraivan ungalai asirvadhiparaga).

In his homily at the Holy mass celebrated on the Marina beach, the head of the Roman Catholic church noted: "Division and hatred, fear and frustration are among the counter-values of our day. Hence, the church's task of proclaiming the Gospel and of being at the service of society is supremely relevant in India today."

The Pope, who spent about two-and-a-half hours in a specially erected podium said there could be no "authentic Christian life" without an effective love of fellow human beings.

The Pontiff arrived on the Marina about 3.50 p.m. and drove up the aisle of the vast congregation, stretching from



the Police Head-quarters to the Lady Willingdon College, compartmentalised into 44 sectors, blessing the people and acknowledging their cheers and greetings.

A highlight of his homily, which alone lasted for about 30 minutes, was his clear and loud address in Tamil for five minutes.

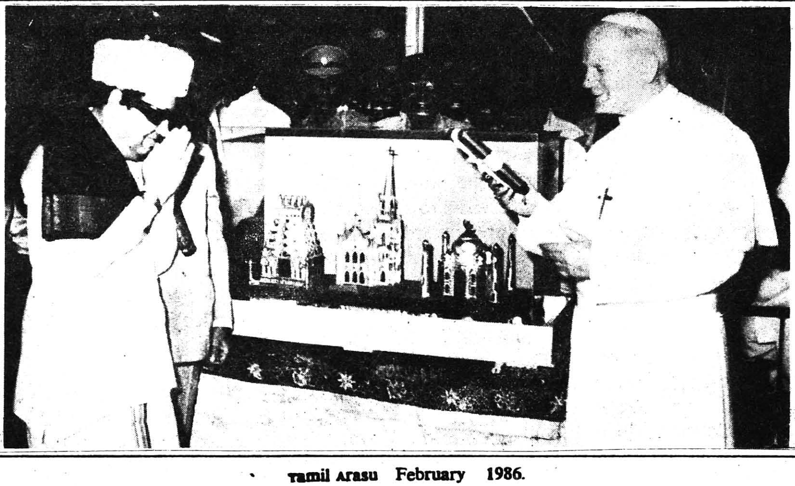
To the thunderous ovation of the entire gathering, the Pope began his sermon with "Iraiva, yella makka lum unnai pottratum"- (Let all the peoples praise you, O'God) and expressed his happiness to be among the people of Tamil Nadu with "metha magazhchi". He broke into Tamil a couple of times in the course of his homily and ended it with a "Vanakkam".

The Pope later left for Goa after an eight hour visit to the City and he was given an affectionate send off by a large gathering led by the Governor, Thiru S. L. Khurana and the Chief Minister Dr. M. G. Ramachandran.

The head of the Vatican State blessed the Chief Minister and wished him speedy recovery. He also expressed his appreciation for the exceptional hospitality shown to him by the people of Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister presented the Pope a memento-three gold coated silver replicas of a temple, a church and a mosque encased in a glass container- and a copy of the English version of Thirukkural. The aircraft took off at 7.20 p.m.

-M.N.



Let us join to alleviate human suffering - Pope John Paul II

Pope John Paul II called upon followers of different religions to join in liberty, human brotherhood, education, culture, social welfare and civil order.

"Dialogue between members of different religions increases and deepens mutual respect and paves the way for relationships that are crucial in solving the problems of human suffering and for overcoming difficulties in the task of nation-building" observed the Head of the Catholic Church, addressing an invited gathering at the richly decorated Rajaji Hall on February 5th.

In the context of religious pluralism, the Pope pointed out the spirit of tolerance, which had been part of the Indian heritage, was not only desirable but imperative and must be implemented in a framework of practical means of support. The world noted with great satisfaction that the Preamble the Indian constitution assured all the citizens liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. "It, therefore, becomes a duty incumbent on all citizens, especially on leaders in religious life, to support and guard this precious principle. Everyone should uphold religious liberty and work for peace and harmony among people of different religious traditions, societies and nations."

Describing India as the cradle of ancient religious traditions on things unseen and spiritual have made a deep impression on the world,"your overwhelming sense of the primacy of religion and of the greatness of the Supreme Being has been a powerful witness against materialist and aesthetic view of life."

The Pope said abolition of inhuman living conditions was

an authentic spiritual victory because it brought man freedom, dignity and the possibility of spiritual life. It enabled him to rise above the material. "Every, man is worthy of respect and freedom by reason cf his spiritual nature; because we believe in man, in his innate excellence, we love him and serve him and seek to relieve his sufferings", he said quoting Pattinathar, a Tamil sage.

Before concluding his 20 minute address, the Pope said in Tamil "namakku mele oruvan, avan enrum iraivan;potri, potri, potri". (There is one above us; He is the God Almighty, praise to Him).

Welcoming thePope, Rt. Rev. Michael B. Duraisamy, Bishop of Salem, said though India was a land of many religions and languages, the "spirit of love binds us all and we support your endeavour of world peace."

From the audience, Thiru A.K.A. Abdul Samad offered a "ponnadai" to the Head of the Vatican; similarly, Sri Swaminatha Thambiran from Dharmapuram Adheenam offered a ponnadai and applied "vibhoothi" on the Pontiff's forehead. He also presented a set of Saiva Siddanta books to the Pontiff.

Thiru. Bhagwant Singh Dalwari presented the Pope a momento-a teak wood carving in the form of a pipal leaf with a wheel at the centre representing the Dharma Chakra symbolically representing the harmonious co-existence of various religious traditions in India. Prof. Sukumar Azhikode, a former Vice-Chancellor of Calicut University, proposed a vote of thanks.

The traditional nadaswaram by Thiru Latchappa and party greeted the arrival of the Pope. As part of the traditional welcome were an Aarathi by Tmt. Regina Vincent, Poornakumbam by Tmt. Rajalakshmi Jeyavelu, and Bharatanatyam Anjali by Tmt. Chitra Visweswaran. Sr. Rita Susai and party and Tmt. Mani Krishnaswamy rendered invocation songs in Tamil and Sanskrit respectively.

At the portals, the Pope was garlanded by the Madras University Vice-Chancellor, Dr. B.B. Sundaresan and was led to the dais by Rt. Rev. Dr. R. Arulappa, Archbishop of Madras Mylapore, as bhajans were sung. Before ascending the dais the Pope lighted a kuthuvilakku.

—M.Nagesh

CULTURAL CENTRE FOR SOUTH INAGURATED

The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi, expressed the hope that the seven zonal cultural centres to be opened in the country would promote national integration by enabling the people of different regions and cultures to know and understand one another better.

Thiru Gandhi, who received a Thanjavur Veena from the Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, as a memento, inaugurated the centre by playing a few notes on the instrument. He said it was only in the fitness of things that the cultural centre for the Southern zone was being estalished at a function at Tiruvaiyaru which was a great centre Carnatic music, for here lived one of the greatest musicians of all time, Saint Thyagaraja. There could be no better proponent of national integration than Thyagararaja who wrote "Entharo Mahanubhavulu", a pancharathna krithi considered as one of the greatest pieces of lyrics in the world.

He announced that a separate sub-centre of the southern Cultural Centre exclusively for music would be established at Tiruvaiyaru next year in appreciation of the Great contribution made by Thyagaraja to national integration.

Accepting the veena presented by Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi said, "I hope the Chief Minister will not expect me to play on the veena when I come next time."

Expressing the hope that a new cultural ethos' would develop from the cultural centre, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi said cultural festivals would be held in the different zones in rotation every year.

Every year, during the winter, there would be a four-to-six-week-long 'Festival of India' in Delhi involving all the zonal cultural centres and top aritistes. All the cultures of the country could thus be promoted together. The participants could exchange ideas and influence each other to develop stronger individual personalities, he said.

Welcoming the Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Education Minister, Thiru C. Aranganayagam, said that Thanjavur was a fit place for the south since it had a rich tradition synthesising the greatness of the imperial Cholas, the valiant Nayaks and the benevolent Marattas.

Thiru Seerkazhi Govindarajan rendered a Tamil invocation song. Thiru P. V. Narasimha Rao, Hon'ble Union Minister for Human Resources, Thiru M. O. H. Farooq, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Pondicherry, Mrs Prathiba Bharathi, Hon'ble Minister for Culture of Karnataka, Mrs. Lalithamba Aiyar, Secretary, Department of Culture, Kerala, attended the inaugural function. His Excellency Thiru S.L. Khurana, Governor of Tamil Nadu, presided.

The Prime Minister was then treated to a 75-minute programme of the arts, dance and music of the southern States and Union Territories.

Tmt. M. S. Subbulakshmi opened the programme with a brief song. This was followed by a veena recital by Thiru Doraiswamy Iyengar of Karnataka Purandaradasarkritis by Thiru R. K. Srikantan also of Karnataka, a Nicobarian folk dance by a troupe from the Andaman and Nicobar islands and "mohiniyattam", a form of dance, and "Panchayadyam" (five drums) by groups from Kerala.

"Bharatha Desam", Choreo by Dr. Padma Subramaniam, "Yakshnaganam", a folk drama, by Sambu Hegde and party of Karnataka, and choral singing by a Pondicherry group were other items.

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by Thiru Narashimha Rao was earlier in the day received at the Tiruchi airport by Thiru Khurana Governor and Hon'ble State Ministers, Thiru N. Nallusamy, Thiru A. Arunachalam and Thiru R. Soundararajan.

From Tiruchi Thiru Gandhi flew by helicopter to Thanjavur where he was received by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, his Cabinet colleagues and others.

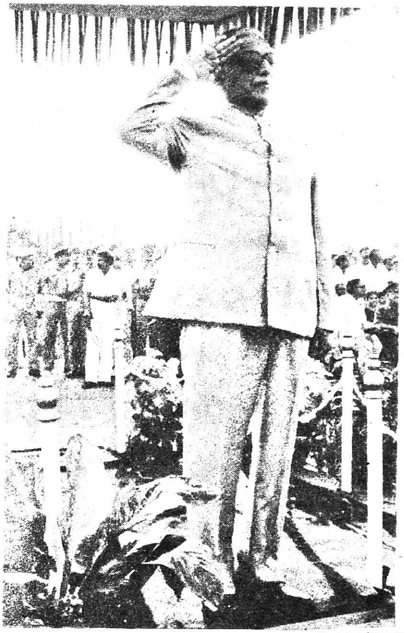
Tmt. Gariyaii, IAS who has been appointed Special Officer of the Southern Cultural Centre, told pressmen that the centre would train youngsters in various performing arts, give financial aid to scholars doing research in their art froms and organise performances, exhibition etc.,

MARTIN LUTHER KING: A DREAM FULFILLED

In August, 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr., a 34-year-old Baptist Minister rom Alabama, rose to speak at a historic public meeting in America. On that day he spoke gently and with persuasion of his dream of an America that he longed for.

A year later he received the Nobel Peace prize. Four years later he was gunned down by an assassin's bullet. In 1969, India honoured him posthumoulsy with the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for Peace and understanding. Twenty-two years after that historic August day, America, and with it the world, is honouring Martin Luther King as one of the most eloquent and distinguished leader of the civil rights movement.

January, 20, 1986; it the first observance of the U.S. federal holiday instituted to honour Martin Luther King, Jr.The act creating the holiday was passed after more than 16 years of effort. Support for the legislation came from people in all walks of life—from members of Congress, the White House, business and labour, from civil rights and religious groups and, most important, from those individuals who had worked continuously to make Martin Luther King's dream a reality. Dr.King is the first black and only the second American to be honoured by a federal holiday. He hared this distinction with America's first President, George Washington.

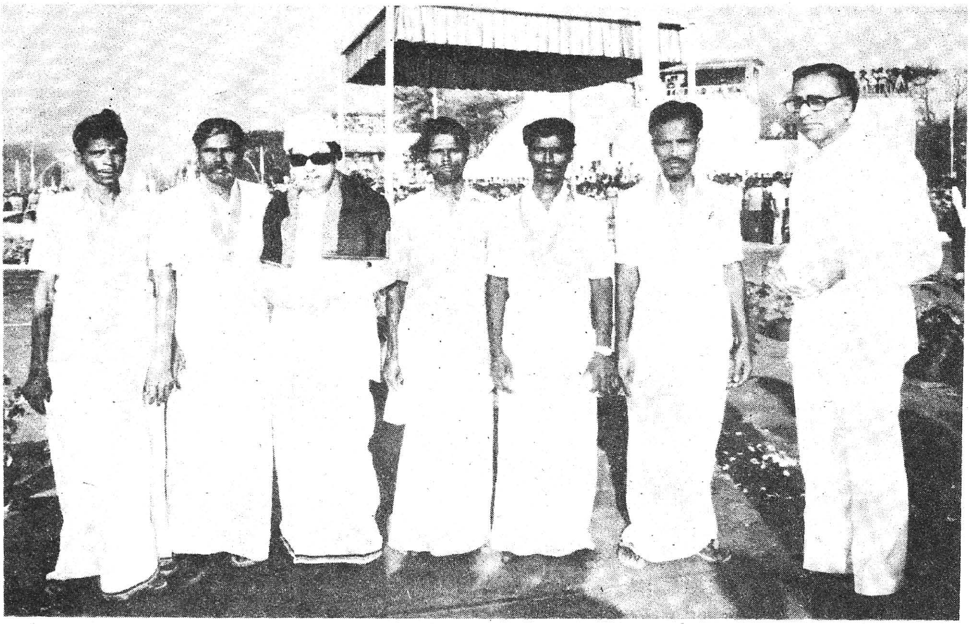


Republic Day celebrations at Madras

Colour and pageant with a display of diverse folk dances highlighted the Republic Day celebrations in the city on 26th January. The Governor, Thiru S. L. Khurana, unfurled the tricolour flag and took the salute at a ceremonial march-past on the Marina in front of the Gandhi statue.

The surface to air missile, Ajeet aircraft and a submarine thrilled the spectators as the contigents of Army, Navy and Air Force formed the vanguard of the march past.

It was followed by the units of CRPF band, CRPF, CISF,



RPF, Ex-Servicemen, Mounted Police, Madras Police, Tamil Nadu Special Police, Junior and senior wings of the NCC, St. John Ambulance, Tamil Nadu Fire Service, Home Guards, Bharat Scouts, Junior Red Cross, Approved Schools and Boys and Girls.

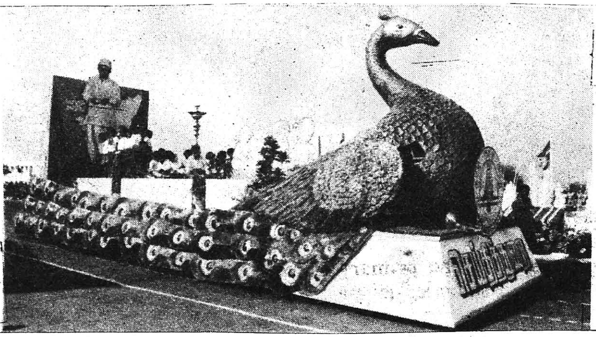
Girls from various schools, clad in colourful costumes performed the folk dances of a number of States amid thunderous cheers followed by nadaswaram music by the students of the Music College, Madras, heralding the start of the pageantry.

The Chief Minister Dr. M. G. Ramachandran, gave away Anna medals for gallantry to five persons this year, each carrying a medal worth Rs. 1,000 along with a demand draft for Rs. 1,000.

Thiru S. Syed Meer, a resident of Mullapalayam village in South Arcot, rescued 17 persons when they were washed away in floods during November last year. In the process of saving 17 lives, he had lost his two children.

The other recipients-Messrs. R. Harikrishnan, G. Rajendran, C. Ayyasamy and M. Desu Naidu-saved the passengers of a Thanthai Periyar Transport Corporation bus when it was washed away by the floods in November last at Tondiar. River bridge near Konamkkampattu village on Tindivanam-Ginjee Road.

Earlier, the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary, Thiru T. V. Antony, received the Governor on arrival at the saluting base and introduced to him the General Officer Commanding, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala Area, the representatives of the Navy and Air Force in Madras, Director-General of Police and the Inspector General of Police.



COOPERATIVE MARKETING IN TAMIL NADU

A. Kanakasabapathy,
M.A., H.D.C.

Additional Registrar
(Cooperative Marketing Development)

Cooperative Marketing Societies are charged with the onerous role of improving the economy of farmersby consolidating the benefits flowing from out of the cheap cooperative credit by able marketing support. Enlarging efficient cooperative marketing on a larger scale also takes care of the interests of the consumers by eliminating unnecessary tiers besides protecting the producers' interests.

Marketing Set-up:

The Cooperating marketing set-up in Tamil Nadu is of two tier one except in Thanjavur District. There are 114 primary cooperative marketing societies at the taluk level and the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation at the State Level. In Thanjavur District there is a district level cooperative Federation. The Cooperative Marketing Societies cover almost all the mandis.

Individual growers and Agricultural Service Cooperative Societies are members of these Primary Cooperative Marketing Societies. As on 31-3-85 there were 10,27,653 members in these Cooperative Marketing Societies.

Services rendered by the Cooperative Marketing Societies:

The primary object of these societies is marketing of agricultural produce of their members. They also undertake distribution of agricultural inputs, issue of produce pledge loans to enable growers to wait for better prices and recovery of cultivation loans through marketing.

During the current year it is proposed to market agricultural produce worth Rs. 85 crores. The Cooperative Marketing Societies have marketed agricultural produce worth Rs. 39 crores upto 30-9-85.

Infrastructural facilities of Cooperative Marketing Societies :

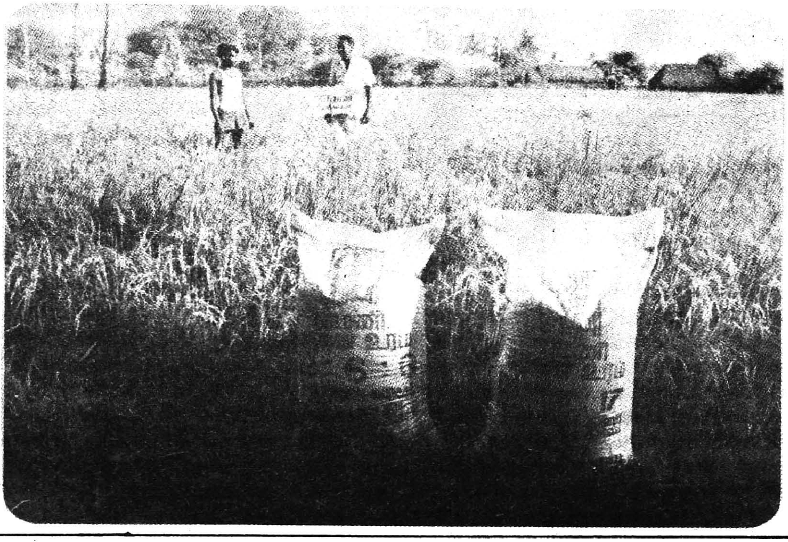
The Cooperative Marketing Societies have acquired necessary infrastructural facilities such as godowns, market yards, lorries, etc. to discharge their functions in an efficient manner. The Cooperative Marketing Societies have also established processing units to assist their members to process their produce at cheaper cost and also to enable them to get a better

price. The number of processing units run by the Cooperative Marketing Societies is indicated below :—

Rice mills	28
Decorticators	17
Ginning factories	17

Thanjavur Cooperative Marketing Federation :

The Thanjavur Cooperative Marketing Federation, the only district level federation in the state, is engaged in the distribution of fertilisers through the Agricultural Service Cooperative Societies in the Thanjavur District. When the Government launched a scheme of production incentive with effect from 1-10-84 under which a subsidy of Rs. 15 in the form of fertilisers per quintal of paddy supplied by the farmers in Cauvery delta during Kuruvai and Samba seasons to the



Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, this Federation was entrusted with the job of implementing the scheme. The federation distributed fertilisers worth about Rs. 9 crores under this scheme.

Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation :

The Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation (TANFED) which is the apex Cooperative Marketing Institution in the state is engaged in the marketing of agricultural produce, in association with the primary cooperative marketing societies and distribution of fertilisers and other agricultural inputs all over the state excluding Thanjavur and Nilgiris Districts where the distribution is done by the Thanjavur Cooperative Marketing Federation and the Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society respectively. During the year 1984-85 the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation distributed fertilisers and pesticides worth about Rs. 34 crores. The federation is also running a granular fertiliser plant and a tractor service station at Mannargudi in Thanjavur district, a turmeric and chillies powdering unit at Thimmavaram in Chengalpattu district and a cold storage plant at Madras. The granular fertiliser produced by the TANFED is marketed in the Brand name "Pamani". The installed capacity of the plant is 150 tonnes per day and it produces 17:17:17 and 12:6:6 complex varieties. The Federation has exported agricultural produces such as turmeric, coriander, onion, cardamom, chillies, cashewnut, cotton and groundnut extractions worth of Rs. 2 crores in the recent years to countries like Singapore, Srilanka, Malaysia and USSR.

Government Assistance to Cooperative Marketing Societies :

Government are providing financial assistance for the development of cooperative marketing in the successive five year plans. Managerial sobsidy for enabling the Co-operative Marketing Societies to employ qualified managerial staff, contribution to the special price fluctuation fund to encourage the Cooperative Marketing Societies to make outright purchase of agricultural produce from small farmers whose capacity to retain their produce for long is very much limited, share capital contribution to augment the working capital of the societies are some of the assistances provided by the Government to the Cooperative Marketing Societies. During the sixth five year plan a new scheme was introduced to enable Cooperative Marketing Societies reach an annual turnover of Rs. 1 crore under marketing of agricultural produce. Under this scheme 25 Cooperative Marketing Societies were selected for sanction of assistance for (i) establishment of market yard with facilities like auction-shed, growers rest shed, lorry parking space, weighing platform, cart stand, roads inside market, enclosure, etc. (ii) purchase of grading equipments and (iii) towards margin money to raise bank credit for the purchase of lorry.

Plan for developing marketing activities:

It has been observed that Cooperative Marketing Societies are effective in ensuring

better prices for the agricultural produces of growers only if they conduct auction sale in which various agencies such as cooperatives, public sector corporations and private merchants participate. The phenomenal success of the Tiruchengode Cooperative Marketing Society in Salem district is due to this system. It has been proposed to have similar method of sale in all the Cooperative Marketing Societies. As a first step 20 Cooperative Marketing Societies have been selected for introducing auction sale during the current year. These societies will be provided necessary assistance to acquire adequate working capital and other infrastructural facilities like market yard, godowns, processing units etc., Proposals for the establishment of a gigantic market yard for marketing onions in Dindigul, a ginning factory at Manapparai and a dhal mill at Virudunagar are presently on the anvil.

National Cooperative Development Corporation is providing margin money assistance to Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation for undertaking marketing activities. During the years 1980-81, 81-82 and 82-83 margin money assistance to the extent of Rs. 40 lakhs, Rs. 50 lakhs and Rs. 95 lakhs respectively was provided to the Federation. The apex federation is undertaking its marketing operations through the primary societies. The Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation entered the field of cotton marketing in the year 1979-80. The federation has established link up with Cooperative Marketing Societies and the 17 Cooperative Spinning mills, National Textile Corporation and the Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation for the procurement of cotton and sale of the lint. The federation also supplements its procurement of cotton in Tamil Nadu with purchases from Andhra and Karnataka to satisfy the needs of the Cooperative Spinning Mills in Tamil Nadu. During the year 1984-85, cotton was procured to the extent of Rs. 9 crores from Tamil Nadu Rs. 6 crores from Andhra and Rs. 4 crores from Karnataka.

Cooperative Marketing of Vegetables :

Cooperativisation of the trade in vegetables has been engaging the attention of the Government for some time past. The object in view was to ensure a better return to the grower and providing wholesome vegetables to the consumer at reasonable prices by eliminating unnecossary intermediances, spoilage etc. With the introduction of the Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Programme the need for an institutional arrangement for supply of vegetables to the Noon Meal Centres was felt. The small and marginal farmers engaged in cultivation of vegetables were organised into cooperatives all over Tamil Nadu. 516 Vegetable Growers Cooperative Marketing Societies have been organised at the rate of one society per panchayat union in most districts and two or more per union in a few districts. As on 31-8-85 there were 34,466 members on the rolls of these societies of whom 25,866 were small farmers. These societies are supplying vegetables to 39,592 noon meal centres out of the 57,697 centres in their area. During the year ended 31-3-85 these societies marketed vegetables worth Rs. 4.05 crores of which vegetables worth Rs. 3.42 crores were supplied to the noon meal centres.

Pilot project to develop vegetable Cooperative Marketing Societies:

A pilot project to develop 44 vegetable growers Cooperative Marketing Societics has been formulated and Government have sanctioned assistance under Integrated Rural Development Programme to the extent of Rs. 47.875 lakhs towards 50% of the cost of purchase of mini lorries and box coolers for these 44 societies and for construction of godowns for 15 societies. Free services of Government staff have also been provided to work as Managing Directors of these 44 societies.

National Cooperative Development Corporation assistance to the extent of Rs. 4.90 lakhs has been sanctioned to 11 Vegetable Growers Cooperative Marketing Societies during 1984-85 to strengthen their share capital position.

Under the Seventh Five Year Plan it has been programmed to provide share capital assistance of Rs. 10,000 to each of these Vegetable Growers Cooperative Marketing Societies.

The World of Press Conferences

RECORD ANNUAL PLAN FOR TAMILNADU

The Chief Minister's Noon Meal Scheme will get the lion's share of the Rs. 110.42 crores allocated for 'Social Welfare and Nutrition" in Tamil Nadu's Annual Plan for 1986-87, the Hon'ble Information and Planning Minister, Thiru RM. Veerappan told newsmen on February 13th.

The Minister, who released the sectoral allocations in the State's Annual Plan approved by the Planning Commission earlier that week, said the State Government was happy that the Centre and the Planning Commission had accepted in principle that the money spent on the noon meal scheme, under which over 82 lakh children got one free meal a day, was "development expenditure."

The Centre, which was reluctant to include it among the plan schemes, was now convinced that the money spent on providing at least one meal a day to poor children was an investment on the health and well-being of the nation.

Thiru RM. Veerappan said the major thrusts in the Rs. 1,153 crore Annual Plan would be on power development with an outlay of Rs. 387.36 crores, water supply and sanitation Rs. 125 crores and social welfare and nutrition Rs. 110.42 crores. The allocation for power, which represented 34 percent of the total outlay, was Rs. 87.36 crores more than the allocation in the previous year. In the case of water supply and sanitation the increase was Rs. 25 crores, while it was Rs. 2.65 crores for social welfare and nutrition.

The approved allocations (rupees in crores in brackets) for other sectors are: Agriculture and allied services(94.44), rural development (47.89), irrigation and flood control (77.94), industry and minerals (54.38) transport (57.75), Science, technology and environment (1.68), general economic services(3.98) education, art and culture (60.15), health (26.76), housing (47), urban edvelopment (33), Information and Publicity(0.60), Welfare of S.C., S.T. and other backward classes (15.50), labour and employment (3.99) and general services, stationery and printing (4.98).

To a suggestion that the allocation of Rs. 54.38 crores for industry and minerals was not adequate, Thiru RM. Veerappan pointed out that the Plan outlay was not the index of industrial growth. For, the allocations in the Plan, intended to cover particular items like provision of share capital by SIPCOT, etc., would have a multiplier effect, and the actual investment might be even 10 times more. Further, outlays on power development, housing and other sectors would provide the impetus for industrial growth.

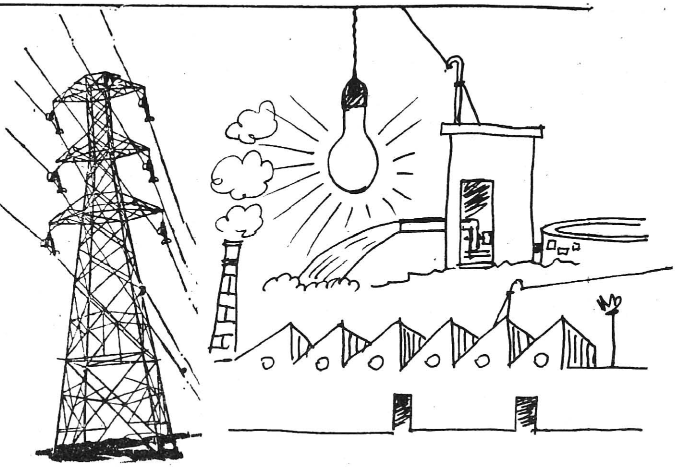
Refuting a criticism that welfare measures were implemented at the cost of development expenditure, he contended that the per capital investment was steadily going up in the successive Annual Plans of the State and was higher than the all-India average, despite expenditures on noon meal scheme, supply of power at concessional rates to farmers and sale of rice at subsidised rates through the public distribution system. The per capita investment (with all-India average given in brackets) was; 1982-83—Rs. 173 (Rs. 171); 1983-84; Rs. 205 (Rs. 199); 1984-85: Rs. 225 (Rs. 219); 1985-86 was based on the

approved outlay of Rs. 960 crores, but the actual investment was likely to exceed Rs. 1080 crores.

The Minister said the Planning Commission had found the performance of the State Government satisfactory in all sectors, and hence there was no difficulty in getting an outlay of Rs. 1,153 crores approved as against Rs. 960 crores for the previous year.

The Minister said the State Government would release Rs. 15 lakhs this month for renovation of poor temples in rural areas. The amount was being made available from the interest that had accrued on a Rs. 1 crore fund created 18 months ago from out of the surplus of Sri Subramaniaswamy Temple at Palani.

Nearly 150 small temples would be benefitted and the maximum sanction in each case would be Rs. 10,000. The assistance would be extended for construction of small temples.



TNEB load despatch Centre being shifted to Madras.

Three large thermal stations, a nuclear power station and a score of hydroelectric power stations together provide Tamil Nadu its electricity every day. There are also contributions from (and at times supplies to) neighbouring States such as Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

In the course of a day, nearby, 40million units of electricity will be generated and distributed to over a half a million consumers across Tamil Nadu. And the demands for power will have swung from a low of around 1,400 MW after midnight to 2,100 MW at 7-30 a.m., down to 1,800 MW at noon, and again to 2,000 MW by 7 p.m. before slipping back to 1,400 MW by midnight.

All through the tortuous day power generated will have been constantly adjusted, even fine tuned, to match the changing demand. For the past 21years the job of holding the power grid in equilibrium has been performed by the TNEB Loan Desparch Centre at Erode. That job, henceforth, will be taken over by the new centre being established in Madras.

With the entry of Centrally run stations at Kalpakkam and Neyveli, those energy has to be shared with other States in the region, (loan despatch) is no longer just a technical matter but one that needs administrative and policy-decisions, Thiru. K. Krishnaswamy Rao, Chief Engineer (Operations) TNEB told newsmen on 12th February. It has been therefore decided to move the load despatch centre to the administrative head quarters in Madras, he said.

Thiru B.Vijayaraghavan,I.A.S. Chairman, TNEB, said that the establishment of the new centre in Madras would enable better coordination with neighbouring State Electricity Board.

No hike in bus fares

For 13 State Transport Corporations in Tamil Nadu the hike in the prices of petroleum products announced by the Centre, even after the slash-down, will entail an additional expenditure of Rs. 4 crores a year on diesel consumption. All the corporations together operate about 9,600 buses.

The Madras-based Pallavan Transport Corporation alone will have to incur an additional expenditure of Rs. 60 lakhs on diesel, the Transport Minister, Hon'ble Thiru S. Muthuswamy, told newsmen on February 6th.

Asked whether any passenger fare revision was contempleted to offset the increased operational cost, he said the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. M. G. Ramachandran had directed that on no account should the fares be increased, "We are trying to find out other means to meet it" he added.

TEA TIME

1. Today's modern Olympics, the winners are awarded medals. What was awarded in the Ancient Olympics.

2. What is the value of a rupee keeping 1974 as the base of the consumer price index ?

3. What is the percentage of literacy in India ?

4. Name the first woman who did the space walk ?

5. What does the abbreviation RSVP mean ?

6. The Bhaba Atomic Research Centre at Bombay has four reactors. Can you name them.

7. What have Menaka, Rogini, and Centaure to do with Trivandrum.

8. Adi Grant is the religious book of Siks. Who compiled it?

9. Dr. William Stockes invented a common medical instrument. Which instrument?

10. What is one horse power ?

11. What is the activity of Vitamin K ?

12. Speed of an aeroplane is measured by "Mach". What is Mach I?

—M.Nagesh

ANSWER

1. Crown of Olive branches
2. 12.11 paise
3. 36 percent
4. Russian Cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya
5. Respondez sil vous plait (Fr) meaning 'Please reply'
6. Apsara, Zerlina, Cirus, Purnima.
7. They are the names of the rockets developed for meteorological studies by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum.
8. Guru Arjun Dev, the 5th Guru of the sikhs
9. Stethoscope
10. James Watt of UK introduced this unit of power. He calculated that an average horse could raise 150 pounds through a height of 220 feet in one minute (150x250 = 33000 feet pounds, per minute) One horse power is equal to 745.7 watts.
11. Vitamin K maintains normal clotting of blood.
12. 760 miles per hour.

THE CHALLENGE OF SOCIAL HOUSING

The Tamil Nadu Housing Board is implementing various Social Housing Scheme (viz.,) Economically Weaker Sections Housing Scheme, Low Income Group Housing Scheme, Middle Income Group Housing Scheme, Higher Income Group Housing Scheme and Rental Housing Scheme. The present policy of the Board is as follows :—

(i) Economically Weaker Sections houses	55% allocation subject to a minimum of 30% for E.W.S.
(ii) Low Income Group	
(iii) Middle In- Group	
(iv) Higher Income Group	45%

SOURCE OF FINANCE

The main source of funds for execution of the scheme are as detailed below :—

(i) Loans and Grants from Government

(ii) Loans from Hudco

(iii) Loans from L.I.C. of India

(iv) Advance from Government for Rental Housing Scheme

(v) Advance from other agencies like M.M.D.A. for execution of works on Agency basis.

(vi) Revenue from Board's properties.

Besides the main Social Housing Scheme namely Economially Weaker Section, Low Income Group, Middle Income Group and Higher Income Group Housing Schemes, the Tamil Nadu Housing Board is implementing (*a*) Land Acquisition-Development Scheme,(*b*) Sites and Services Scheme. The Board also execute work on agency basis for various departments like M.M.D.A., Police Department etc.

The works outlay of Tamil Nadu Housing Board for 1985-86 is Rs. 52 crores.

ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTION HOUSING SCHEME

These units are constructed for those whose annual income is upto Rs. 4,200. The cost should be repaid in 20 years at 5% interest per annum. So far (upto 30-9-85) 51451 units have been constructed under this category including slum tenements. The physical and financial target for 1985-86 under this schemes are as follows :—

	Physical	*Financial* (*Rs. in lakhs*)
Economically Weaker Section (Slum Clearance Scheme).	688	70.00
Economically Weaker Secton	974	100.C0
	1,662	170.00
Achievement (upto 30-9-1985)		1,217

Low Income Group Housing Scheme

This scheme is intended for those whose annual income is between Rs. 4,200 to Rs. 7,200. The cost should be repaid in 15 years with 7% to 8% interest. So far (upto 30-9-85) the Housing Board has constructed 24,184 units. The target for 1985-86 is as follows :—

	Physical	Financial (Rs.in lakhs)
Low Income Group	2,488	275
Achievement upto 30-9-85	1,949	163.98

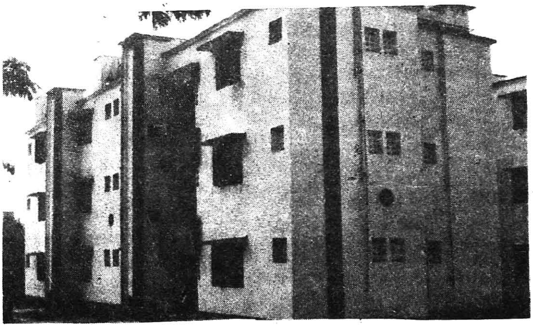
Middle Income Group Scheme

These units are allotted to the individuals whose income is between Rs. 7,200 to Rs. 18,000. The interest rate charged is 10.5% to 11% and the cost of repayment period is 12 years. 20,913 units have been constructed upto 30-9-85 under this scheme. The target for 1985-86 is as follows :—

	Physical	Financial (Rs. in lakhs)
Middle Income Group	3,053	660.00
Achievement upto 30-9-85	832	705.77
	(including HIG also)	

Higher Income Group Housing Scheme

This is intended for those whose annual income is above Rs. 16,000. The cost under the scheme should be repaid in 10 years at 12.5% interest. So far 20,081 units have been constructed under this scheme. The target for 1985-86 is as detailed below :—



	Physical	Financial (Rs. in lakhs)
Higher Income Group	2,693	900
Achievement upto 30-9-1985	554	458.55

Sites and Services Scheme

Tamil Nadu Housing Board has taken up this Special Land Development Scheme under the World Bank assisted Madras Urban Development Project. The scheme aims at improving the housing conditions of urban poor who form 60% of the population of Madras by providing housesites with basic amenities like infrastructure facility, hygenic atmosphere, etc at a cost affordable by the Economically Weaker Section Group. Adopting different pricing policy, plots units are allotted to the poor at a subsidised cost. It also aims at mobilisation of allottees participating in completing the semi-built or incremental housing from out of their own resources.

Madras Urban Development Project-I

Sites and Services component was implemented by Tamil Nadu Housing Board at three sites (viz.) Arumbakkam Villivakkam and Kodungaiyur. Rs.643.64 lakhs has been spent so far under MUDP.-I and an amount of Rs. 120 lakhs has been provided in the State Budget for 1985-86 for completing the balance works.

Madras Urban Development Project-II

So far 3,759 core units have been completed in 153 acres. Due to land acquisition problems, remaining 152 acres could not be taken up for development with available land in Mogappair and Nolambur villages. Hence the scheme was revised and taken up as Mogappair West Scheme. This scheme envisages development of 187.02 acres with all infra structure facilities. 4,172 core units, 1,275 L.I.G., 152 M.I.G., and 72 H.I.G. plots are proposed to be developed at a cost of Rs. 963.76 lakhs.

Total area to be developed—
—216 Hectares

No. of flats—15,000

Cost Rs.23.8 crores.

Maduravoyal Scheme :

During 1984-85 an amount of Rs. 418.61 lakhs has been spent by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board under M.U.D.P-I. and II and 6,589 units have been developed. It is programmed to complete 2,715 units during 1985-86 under MUDP. II. A sum of Rs. 350 lakhs has been provided in the State Budget for implementation of MUDP-II Scheme.

The physical and financial target for 1985-86 underMUDP I and II are as follows :—

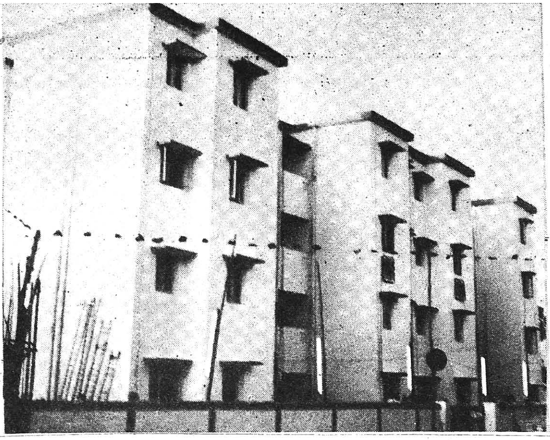
	Physical	*Financial Rs. in lakhs.*
MUDP-I & II	8,000	520

All the units constructed under E.W.S.-L.I.G.- M.I.G.- H.I.G. are allotted throug drawal of lot under Hire Purchase and Outright purchase basis based on the following reservatios.

(i) Schedueed Cast-Scheduled Tribe	18%
(ii) State Government Employees, Tamil Nadu Housing Board staff	18%
(iii) Central Government Employees, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and other Local Bodies	11%
(iv) Defence	7%
(v) Dhobies and barbers	5%
(iv) Journalists	3%
(vii) General Public	37%

Self-Financing Scheme :

The Government have approved a scheme for the construction of houses on a Self-Financing basis by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board for Officers of State Government drawing a total emoluments of Rs. 2,500 per month by drawing upon the individual officers saving or such House Building Advance to which they may be eligible. The Tamil Nadu Housing Board has been directed to implement a specific scheme at Besant Nagar under the above scheme.



All Officers of Tamil Nadu cadre (All India Service), State Government Officer, irrespective of their nativity are eligible for allotment of house under this scheme provided they have put in a minimum service of 5 years in Tamil Nadu.

Central Government Employees Group insurance Housing Scheme :

The Housing and Urban Development Corporation, New Delhi has formulated a new scheme for financial assistance, benefitting Central Government employees covereu under Group Insurance scheme including officers of All India Services. The HUDCO is offering loan assistance for upto 90% of the cost of a scheme with a repayment period of 20 years. The rate of interest shall be 12% and payable quarterly. The Tamil Nadu Housing Board has formulated 4 schemes for construction of 272 units at Besant Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Arignar Anna Nagar, Madras and at Ellis Nagar, Madurai. The Government have since decided to permit the Tamil Nadu Housing Board to avail of the loan assistance offered by the HUDCO.

List of Tamil Nadu Government Servants Rental Housing Schemes Under Construction. Completion at Madras City.

Foreshore Estate :

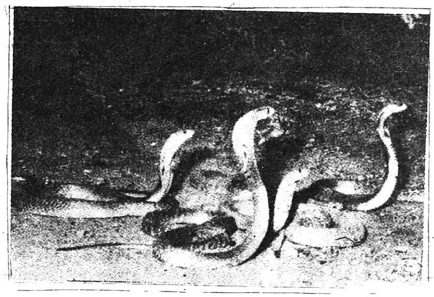
The 60 Tamil Nadu Government Servants Rental Housing Scheme flats nearing completion at Foreshore Estate are as follows :—

Ayanavaram Mental Hospital:

Orders have been issued for the construction of 304 rental flats at Ayanavaram near the Mental Hospital, Madras. The estimated cost of construction is Rs. 142 lakhs.

Todhunter Nagar :

464 flats covering B, C and D2 type are ordered to be constructed at Todhunter Nagar. Construction work has been started. The estimated cost of construction is Rs. 3,08,20,000.



Snake Catchers Cooperative

Cobras, Krait, Vibers, field rats or even a mound of termites. You name it and the Irulas can hunt it for you.

Expert snake and rat catchers, the Irulas of Chingleput district have for generations been the traditional pest controllers of Tamil Nadu until urbanisation and pesticides threw them out of business. The Wildlife Protection Act 1972 banning the export of snake skins put paid to yet another source of income.

Romulus Whitaker, founder of the Madras Snake Park and Head of the Crocodile Bank, however, had other plans. In search of help to create venom extraction centre, Romulus contacted a group of Irulas in Madras, 'I had for long, been in search of people who understood my way of life. Suddenly, I was in this group who not only understood me but also lived life my way-catching snakes', he recalls.

From his contact began the Irula Snake Catchers Industrial Cooperative Ltd., an organisation designed to enable the Irulas continue their skills and at the same time, improve their economic situation.

The permission was granted by the Tamil Nadu government, thus making the cooperative the first and only Indian project that legally catches snakes for venom extraction and which has made venom production a self-help cottage industry for tribals.

"More than 10,000 people die from snake-bite in India every year and this is partly due to the shortages of anti-venom serum. The cooperative fulfils an important requirement of the medical world,'

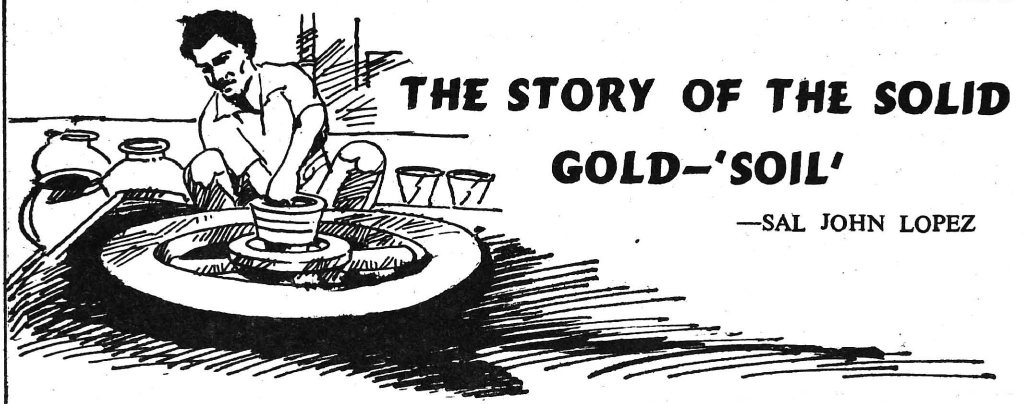
Started with an initial membership of 26Irulas the cooperative now has 500 people working and benefitting from it. Work involves catching and collecting venom from four species of venomous snakes—the Cobra, Krait, Saw-scaled viper and Russell's viper.

'Snake-catching licenses have been issued to 60 members of the cooperative. Groups, by rotation, go out and collect as many snakes as they can catch. Each snake is then sold to the cooperative which pays a different rate for each species caught. Both, the rotation scheme and the different rates, allow the Irulas get some regular income for their work. Profits from the sale of snake venom is distributed among the members annually with a portion set aside for heath and educational reforms.

The venom extraction centre is unique in more than one way. It is the only unit in the world to set snakes free once venom has been extracted from them. Two fulltime Irula employees at the cooperative, codify the snakes brought in. This coding ensures that snakes once they are set free, are not caught again too soon. The code also helps in keeping a tab on the number of snakes caught and set loose in an area. Thus census figures arrived at for any particular snake species. Snakes are kept at the cooperative for a month before being released.

The cooperative also catches rats, in which non-licensed members are involved by roster. Quarterly visits to various localities and districts help exterminate the menace in homes and rice fields. An advantage is that the Irulas do not use any poison and harm the ecology. Their method is more satisfying than any pest control company's for at the end of the day the Irulas exhibit handfuls of dead rats as proof.

Other activities planned for Irula employment including crocodile, bees, butterfly and medicinal herb farming, will result from the profits and infrastructure created by the venom project. It is hoped that with time the Irula Cooperative will become a model for any other effort at reestablishing tribals in traditional occupations and in actively involving them in wildlife conservation (CEE-NFS)



THE STORY OF THE SOLID GOLD—'SOIL'

—SAL JOHN LOPEZ

"When you learn an art or skill
You don't have to worry
about"

The main axis of the village economy is on agriculture and handicrafts. Though these sectors are being neglected knowingly or otherwise they still perform their mighty role and keep the wheel moving. Among the village arts and crafts, obviously the oldest and the still prevailing major skill is pottery making. From the golden memorable days of the Harppa civilization to this day, people have had kept this art living.

Here is a story; neither a myth nor a legend. It is a story of a great commune, with amazing dedication try to uplift their arid lands their life.

Kanyakumari is known best for the lands' end of India, where the three seas, the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, and the Arabian sea, confluence. The district is also known for its sublime natural beauty, the sleepy ambiance embedded with splendid historic fame and luring climatic conditions.

On the Kanyakumari-Trivandrum road, just 7 Kilometres off from the District Head quarters, Nagercoil, is situated a small hamlet Chungankadi. (This nomenclature came from the words "Toll Shop; Chungam-Toll; Kadi-shop). During the Travancore Cochin rule, the revenue authorities, it is told ,put up a toll here to collect tax etc. and the name of the place is still being called by the old name. With mountains and sweet fragrance exuding paddy fields on both the sides the place lures any one who passes this side during day time.

The people of this hamlet carry on either agriculture or pottery making. Like agriculture, pottery making is also their traditional art. Tradition coupled with their individual talent, they show us how to use waste clay into something useful to mankind?

'VELALAS' are the traditional people who are involved in pottery making. These poor and illiterate people live on the slopes of the mountains in the hamlet Chungankadi. A square meal a day is simply a dream for them. Without, basic education or knowledge of a skillful trade, their life is obviously dark and damp. Laying their full trust upon mother earth, and upon cooperation, which they have of late learnt as a great binding force, they are trying to fend their path towards prosperity.

The Ponmalai Thirumalai Pottery Co-operative Village Industrial Society was started in 1982, to show them the light of life. The kingpin behind this great effort was Fr.James, a Belgian National, who took to missionary and social work in Kanyakumari District since the 70s.

Now, there are around 130 members in the society and it is a wonder to see that these members work in the society in families.

Another end, but thought provoking sight is that even kids around the age group of 8-12 years help their elders in odd jobs. Nowhere else could we see such a cooperative Family amelioration than in this society. The children working here should not be taken to be as child labour. They are not actually involved in the production work but they just help their elders. It's a help to parents precisely.

Of the total 130 and odd members of the society 60 are men, and the rest women and girls above 18 years of age. From morning till dust they work-peacefully and happily. All the members work under the same shed.

A family produces, in a month, potteries worth of Rs.600/to Rs.700/.They procure clay and sand required for one

year's production, well ahead and for this procurement, they get Rs. 500/- from the society as advance. Each family produces pottery items, prepare the kiln and see for themselves everything goes right.

The items thus manufactured are of different types like pots, flower pots, kitchen wares, and toy wares. There are 100 varieties to mention. And the price of these items range from Rs.2.25 to Rs 30. Most of the products are sent to the nearby Kerala State; where there is huge demand for the society's products.

A member recalls, "in the beginning we used to beg the traders to life our products. Now the situation has changed. There is very big demand for quality products and the purchasers, infact come and flock before the society to get the finished products. Every month nearly Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 60,000/- worth of goods are being transported to Kerala on demand. And there is smile on the faces of the members. The society too earns good profit .Last year also the soceity's profit crossed Rs. 10,000 which is indeed remarkable."

Chungankadi has a meditation centre located at the base of the hill Thirumalai (Holy mount). It is being run by father James, who is also the president of the Ponmalai Thirumalai pottery cooperative society. Clad in the usual robes of sanyasins, Father James looks like a yogi of the Hindu culture and tradition.

"It is not important that I am President of this society, but the labourers have become owners they have risen to that status. That's very important. We have an ambition to produce different kinds of products in clay, but we are waiting for the right time. Tile production is also one of our plans. For this we anticipate a small sum as loan. Once we get this, we will start it soon. This means, we can give mere employment and more wages or income to the owner turned labourers.

The society has two technically trained persons, who are capable of making statues and other noval items like ornamental flower pots from clay. When the society begins to produce such items, there is good scope for them.

Of the 23 and odd village Industrial Cooperatives functioning under the supervision of the Assistant Director of Village Industries, Nagercoil, the Ponmalai Thirumalai Pottery Cooperative is the best, recalls Thiru Munusmay, Assistant Director of Village Industries.

Apart from the normal services rendered to its member, the society also runs adult education classes in the society itself. Father James has arranged few teaching staff from his commune to educate this illiterate, but true sons of the soil. Another important service done by this missionary is that he has built 32 houses for the benefit of these pottery wokers. A very marginal sum is levied and is collected in easy instalments. After few years these houses would become own houses.

Project on Reuse of Bio-Gas Plant Slurry

Sri Parasakthi College for Women, an autonomous college of the Madurai Kamaraj University, Courtallam in Tirunelveli district, has received financial assistance from the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of India to carry out an investigative research project entitled 'Reuse of Bio-gas Slurry through waste Stabilisation - Algae and Fish Ponds.' The department provides financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 70,000 which includes purchase of fingerlings of fish, equipments, fish pond management, etc. The project is for about one year.

The principal investigator is Dr. (Tmt.) G.S. Vijayalakshmi, an ardent woman scientist of Parasakthi College.

Sri Parasakthi College is the only rural arts college which is carrying out research work on various subjects of social relevance. It is one of the pioneer institutions in carrying out the bio-gas research financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Khadi and Village Industries.

FREE DISTRIBUTION OF TEXT BOOKS AND NOTE BOOKS:

During the year of 1985-86, free books, note books have been distributed to 44,950 students studying in the Government Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools. In respect of General Schools, Free books have been distributed to 15,011 students studying in IX and X standards.

Free Slates

Free slates were distributed to 13447 students, studying in I class to V class, in Adi Dravidar Schools, during the financial year of 1985-86.

Free Uniforms

One set of Uniforms were distributed to 51631 students studying in the Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools and also to the students staying in the Adi Dravidar Welfare Hostels during the current financial year.

Free Distribution of Pattas:

727 house site pattas have been distributed, up to the month of Sep' 85 to the landless poor SC and ST.

Adi Dravidar Welfare in Chengleput District

Name of the village	*Taluk*	*No. of Adi-Dravidar Beneficiaries.*
1. Chengarai	Uthukkottai	80
2. Sivakummi	Tiruttani	65
3. Kunnem	Sriperumbudur	38
4. Tiruttani	Tiruttani	70
5. Sriperumbudur	Sriperumbudur	100
6. Ariyanur	Maduranthakam	47
7. Melputhur	Kancheepuram	50
8. Konasamudram	Pallipet	80
9. Pennalurpet		96
10. Murgapalli	Maduranthakam	68
11. Thalapalli	Kancheepuram Taluk	33
	Total	727

REWARD TO INTERCASTE MARRIAGE COUPLES:

Awards for intercaste marriage were distributed to 7 couples. A sum of Rs. 30,100 (i.e. cash award Rs. 300 and Rs. 4000- by means of National Savings Certificate)

PLOUGH BULLS SUBSIDY:

Plough Bulls subsidy of Rs. 600- each have been sanctioned and paid to S.C. peoples during the month of September 85.

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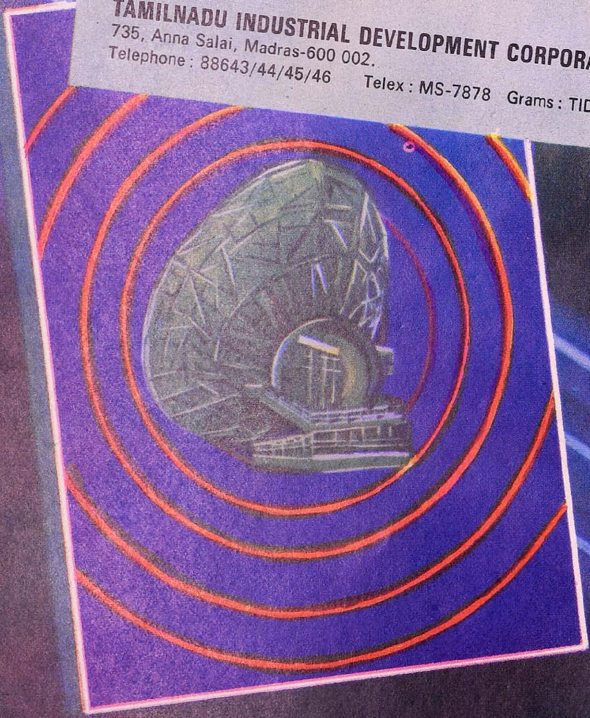

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